

Memorandum


To: All Fair CEO's

Date: January 27, 2004

Ref: F2004-02

Place: Sacramento

Telephone: (916) 263-2459

From: Department of Food and Agriculture –  Bruce Lim, Acting Director
Division of Fairs and Expositions
1010 Hurley Way, Suite 200
Sacramento, CA 95825

Subject: Brucellosis Testing of Breeding Swine

We have been advised that Swine Brucellosis has been diagnosed in California. As a result of this finding, the Animal Health & Food Safety Services (AHFSS) has issued a letter and a Notice of Required Action Pursuant to Quarantine that states (in part):

“Swine brucellosis, a zoonotic disease that may infect animals and humans was recently diagnosed in a swine herd in the Central Valley of California. To protect the health of humans and the California swine industry, all breeding swine destined for exhibition in California now require a negative official brucellosis test within 30 days prior to the exhibition. (See attached quarantine notice.)”

We have attached a copy of the AHFSS letter, a copy of the Notice of Required Action Pursuant to Quarantine, and a fact sheet describing the Swine Brucellosis Investigation in California for your review and use.

Effective today and until further notification, **all breeding swine to be exhibited in California must have a negative official brucellosis test within 30 days prior to being exhibited.** This test requirement supersedes Swine Health Rules, item # 1, on page 24 of the 2004 State Rules For California Fairs. All other Swine Health Rules shall remain in effect and full force.

Exhibitors of breeding swine must have their veterinarian take the appropriate sample for testing. The AHFSS Laboratory System will process the test on the sample(s) at no charge (see attached letter). **Documents confirming a negative test must accompany the breeding swine.** The blood test only takes 24 hours - if breeding swine arrive at the fair without the results, the breeding swine must be held in their truck, or turned back to the farm until laboratory tests are completed. Exhibitors should request that the laboratory fax the test results directly to the fair for breeding swine being held at the fair.

We recognize the challenges this requirement presents as the fair season has already begun and appreciate your efforts to ensure a positive and safe educational experience for fair exhibitors and patrons. Swine brucellosis is a highly contagious disease usually introduced to a herd by an infected animal during breeding. In addition it is a significant human health hazard, causing a serious illness known as "undulant fever"; and may also affect cattle, dogs and other domestic animals. Your assistance in protecting human health and the California swine industry is extremely important.

If you have any questions regarding this update, please call Tomme Jo Dale of my staff at 916-263-2948 or me directly at 916-263-2459. Steve Weaver, CEO of Sacramento County Fair and President of the California Pork Producers Association, may also be contacted should you have questions. Mr. Weaver may be reached at 916-263-2975.

Attachments

Memorandum

To : Bruce Lim, Acting Director
Fairs and Expositions

Date: January 14, 2004

Place: Sacramento

Telephone: (916) 654-0881

From : Department of Food and Agriculture  Richard E. Breitmeyer, DVM, MPVM
Director, Animal Health & Food Safety Services

Subject: BRUCELLOSIS TESTING OF SWINE

Swine brucellosis, a zoonotic disease that may infect animals and humans, was recently diagnosed in a swine herd in the Central Valley of California. To protect the health of humans and the California swine industry, all breeding swine destined for exhibition in California now require a negative official brucellosis test within 30 days prior to the exhibition. (See enclosed quarantine notice).

The California Animal Health and Food Safety Laboratory System (CAHFS) will run the test on these animals at no charge to the producer.

A *Swine Brucellosis Fact Sheet* describing the disease and latest findings in this investigation is attached. If you have any questions, contact Dr. Randy Anderson at (209) 988-1421 or the Animal Health Branch District Supervisor in your area:

Redding:	Dr. Charles Palmer	530-225-2140
Modesto:	Dr. David Willoughby	209-491-9350
Tulare:	Dr. Jeff Davidson	559-685-3500
Ontario:	Dr. David Kerr	909-947-4462

Enclosures:

- Quarantine Notice
- Swine Brucellosis Fact Sheet

cc: Dr. Randy Anderson, Animal Health Branch, Staff Veterinarian
Dr. Alex Ardans, Director, CAHFS
Dr. Paul Ugstad, Area Veterinarian in Charge, USDA/APHIS/VS
District Supervisors

FAIRS & EXPOSITIONS

JAN 14 2004

03/14/04

California Department of Food and Agriculture
Animal Health and Food Safety Services

HQ-0006

1220 N Street, Room A-114
Sacramento, California 95814

Telephone: (916) 654-0881
Facsimile: (916) 653-4249

NOTICE OF REQUIRED ACTION PURSUANT TO QUARANTINE

Owner: **Owners of Swine.**

Address: **Multiple.**

You are hereby notified that the State Veterinarian has imposed a Quarantine pursuant to Food and Agricultural Code, Section 9562 on the following population of animals or animal product:

Description of Population of Animals or Animal Product: **Breeding swine.**

Present location: **In California.**

Reason for Quarantine:

- ☒ This Quarantine is imposed because the population of animals or animal product described above may be infected or infested, has been exposed to a condition that could transmit an illness that could kill or seriously damage other animals or humans, or may be at risk for such exposure.

Condition: **Swine Brucellosis**

- ☐ This Quarantine is imposed in the circumstances of natural disaster, whether occurring or imminent, or a declared emergency.

Required Action: Pursuant to Food and Agricultural Code, Section 9562 and Title 3, California Code of Regulations, Section 1301 *et seq.*, you are required to:

- ☐ Hold the population of animals or animal product described above on the premises where it is now located.

- ☐ Move the population of animals or animal product described above from the present location to _____
_____ no later than _____ a.m. / p.m. on _____.

The method of movement shall be _____.

- ☐ Cease all efforts to cause the population of animals or animal product described above to enter the State of California.

- ☐ Segregate the population of animals or animal product described above from other animals or products no later than _____ a.m. / p.m. on _____.

The method of segregation shall be:

- ☐ Isolate the population of animals or animal product described above no later than _____ a.m. / p.m. on _____.

The method of isolation shall be _____.

- ☒ Treat the population of animals or animal product described above no later than _____ a.m. / p.m. on _____.

The method of treatment shall be: **All breeding swine destined for exhibition in California require a negative official brucellosis test within 30 days prior to the exhibition.**

- ☐ Destroy and dispose of the population of animals or animal product described above. Destruction shall take place no later than _____ a.m. / p.m. on _____.

The method of destruction shall be _____.

The method of disposal after destruction shall be _____.

and disposal shall be completed no later than _____ a.m. / p.m. on _____.

The State Veterinarian may modify the action(s) required in this Notice. Failure to comply with this Notice of Required Action is a violation of Title 3, California Code of Regulations, Section 1301.8 and will result in the Department of Food and Agriculture pursuing appropriate remedies, including but not limited to law enforcement involvement, and may interfere with your receiving indemnity payments to which you might be entitled.

Notice issued by: Ronald E. Breitung Title: **State Veterinarian** Date: **Jan. 14, 2004** Time: **5:00 pm**

Notice served by: Ronald E. Breitung Title: **State Veterinarian** Date: **Jan. 14, 2004** Time: **5:00 pm**

Notice received by: _____ Title: _____ Date: _____ Time: _____

YOUR APPEAL RIGHTS

You may appeal the imposition of the Quarantine in an informal hearing process, pursuant to Chapter 4.5 (commencing with Section 11400) of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code and Title 3, California Code of Regulations, Section 1301.3, by contacting the Animal Health and Food Safety Services, 1220 N Street, Room A-114, Sacramento, CA 95814, telephone (916) 654-0881, facsimile (916) 653-4249, and requesting an informal hearing. **Unless the box below is checked, your request for a hearing must be received within 72 hours of service of this notice.**

- ☐ YOUR REQUEST FOR A HEARING MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN _____ A.M. / P.M. ON _____.

Swine Brucellosis Investigation in California - January 12, 2004

Status: California was Certified Free (Stage 3) in the national swine brucellosis eradication program in 1980. Only four states are now not classified as Free - TX, AR, FL, and LA.

California Case Investigation Timeline:

- 11/4/03 - blood samples from 3 boars killed at Stagno Meats, Stanislaus County, indicate brucellosis infection.
- 11/18/03 - blood samples from 2 sows killed at Palace Meats, Fresno County, indicate brucellosis infection.
- 12/3/03 - Both sets of animals traced to a small swine herd in Tulare County. Herd quarantined.
- 12/9/03 - Blood sample adult swine - 18 sows and 3 boars, and 3 grower pigs from the pen adjacent to the sows.
- 12/10/03 - Test results indicate an infected herd.

Herd Plan: Necropsy the sows and boars and incinerate the carcasses. Market approximately 140 feeder pigs directly to local slaughter markets after informing USDA. Start traceback.

- 12/15/03 - Funds to depopulate the sows and boars approved by USDA.
- 12/18/03 - Depopulation of sows and boars complete. Necropsy at CAHFS revealed lesions compatible with brucellosis. Confirmation of infection pending. Carcasses were transported to Davis CAHFS for incineration.
- Tulare, Fresno and Stanislaus County health officials notified.
- State public health notified.
- Traceback underway. Testing of herds from which sows and boars were purchased into the infected herd is being scheduled.

Swine Brucellosis Information

Human health: Swine brucellosis is a significant human health hazard, causing serious illness known as "undulant fever". Disease spreads to people from handling newborn piglets, aborted fetuses, fetal membranes and during slaughtering or processing infected pigs. Infection occurs via the respiratory tract, oral route, conjunctivae, or

through minor skin abrasions. Disease does not spread person to person.

Cause: Bacteria *Brucella suis*.

Signs: Abortions, weak piglets, infertility, lack of sexual drive and orchitis in boars, lameness, arthritis, abscesses, and posterior paralysis. Some infected pigs show no signs.

Organs affected: Male and female reproductive tract, mammary glands, bones, joints and soft tissue. The organism may be in the blood stream for prolonged periods.

Spread: Highly contagious sexually transmitted disease. Usually introduced into a herd in an infected animal. Disease spreads in semen during breeding, and by ingesting, inhaling, or eye contact with bacteria in milk, reproductive fluids, placenta, aborted fetuses, and urine.

Other animals affected: Feral swine may be a disease reservoir. Cattle, humans, dogs, other domestic animals and rodents may be affected.

Incubation: Variable, average 14-21 days, range 3-120 days.

Surveillance: Blood samples collected from all mature swine at slaughter. Diagnostic samples, movement and show testing enhance surveillance.

Disease Confirmation: Tissue culture. Blood testing is very effective in identifying infected herds but the tests are not precise on individual animals.

Case Options: Depopulation, with owner indemnification, is the preferred method of control. Test and slaughter plans may be used but are often ineffective because not all infected pigs test positive and some show no signs. Infected animals not depopulated pose a risk to human health. No approved vaccine.

Restrictions on exposed animals: Quarantine and slaughter or sale for slaughter. Must move under permit.

Impact: Epidemiologic investigation and testing. If a second infected herd is detected, CA may lose swine brucellosis Free status, requiring a negative official brucellosis test before breeding swine leave CA. The producer must pay for the testing and the costs of delayed movement.